

Longbenton

Urban District Council

County of Northumberland



ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR THE YEAR

1958

OF

A. W. HAY

M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

AND

WILLIAM N. LOCKEY

C.S.I.B., Certified Meat Inspector

Senior Public Health Inspector

Longbenton

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OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

<i>Office</i>	<i>Officer</i>	<i>Qualifications</i>
Medical Officer of Health...	WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM (retired 30 4/58)	M.P., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health...	ARTHUR W. HAY (appointed 1/5/58)	M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector	WILLIAM N. LOCKEY	M.A.P.H.I., Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Food Inspector's Cert., Sanitary Science Cert., R.S.H.
Additional Public Health Inspector	ROBERT P. BRUCE	M.A.P.H.I., Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Food Inspector's Cert., Smoke Inspector's Cert. R.S.H.

Longbenton Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

ARTHUR W. HAY

for the year ended 31st December, 1958.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Longbenton Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1958.

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The population of the area has increased by 2,590 since last year and now numbers 45,800. The increase in the population is mainly in the residential areas of Longbenton and Forest Hall where the over-spill of population from Newcastle-on-Tyne is accommodated in the new housing estates.

An additional feature is the increase in the birth-rate from 14.78 births per 1,000 population last year to 15.12 for the present year. The total number of births registered during the year was 900 as compared with 726 the year before.

The general health of the inhabitants in the area is satisfactory, the incidence of infectious disease being markedly reduced. During 1958 the actual number of cases of Infectious Disease in the area was 183 as against 1,276 in 1957. This is largely due to the area being comparatively free from Measles during the year, only 36 cases occurring compared with 1,007 previously.

The number of cases of Dysentery has also diminished, falling from 113 in 1957 to 39 this year. The disease was fairly evenly-spread over the district, cases occurring in each of the seven wards. Vigorous action was taken by the Health Department to reduce the incidence of the disease and many visits were paid by the Public Health Inspectors to the households affected, both to make investigations and to give instructions to the families concerned.

Bacteriological specimens were obtained from patients and the contacts of patients and a total of 489 such specimens were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Newcastle General Hospital for examination.

I would like to acknowledge the assistance the Department derives from the Laboratory Reports which are so essential in investigating the outbreaks of Infectious Disease.

The Laboratory facilities were also used during the investigation of an outbreak of Typhoid Fever which affected five persons in two families living within 300 yards of one another. No source of the infection from food, milk, ice cream, etc. could be found, although extensive investigations were made. A technique, known as "sewer swabbing" was employed to detect whether an unknown carrier of the disease was living in the community, but all results proved negative. The cases were admitted to Walkergate Hospital and recovered satisfactorily. As no other case of Typhoid occurred it must be assumed that the infection was brought to the families concerned by a temporary visitor to the district.

Turning to causes of death, the main causes are, once again, Diseases of the Heart and Circulation (including Coronary Thrombosis) followed by Cancer. The main increase in the number of deaths from Cancer is in Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus, which increased from 11 last year to 23 this year. It is worthy to note that out of the 23 persons who died of this cause during the year, 19 of them were male. I have collected the figures of deaths from Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus for the past seven years and find that the total number of deaths among males has been 72 and among females, only 10. In this connection it should be remembered that research has shown that there is a relationship between heavy cigarette smokers and Cancer of the Lung, and, although there may be other factors involved, the fact should be borne in mind by parents and others responsible for advising young people.

I am pleased to be able to report that there was not a single case of Polio-myelitis in the Urban District during the year. Immunisation against the disease is continuing and is available to all persons up to the age of 26. The immunisation can be done either by the family doctor or at special sessions held at the local authority clinics.

In addition to the many duties of the Public Health Inspectors they have spent considerable time and trouble during the year bringing the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations to the notice of those running shops and other food premises. This is a measure which can do much to prevent outbreaks of food-borne disease which have been increasing in number during the past few years.

I would like to express my thanks to the Senior Public Health Inspector and the staff of the Health Department for their helpful co-operation during the year, and in conclusion, express my appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their continued interest and encouragement in all matters designed to improve the health of the public.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

A. W. HAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS OF SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	6,786
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population mid-year 1958	45,800
Number of inhabited houses (31/12/58) according to Rate Book	13,194
Rateable Value (31/12/59)	£370,037
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (1958/59) ...	£1,443

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The chief industry is coal mining, with the exception of the residential area of Benton and Forest Hall.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

			Male	Female	Total
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	436	445	881
Illegitimate	...	...	11	8	19
			<hr/> 447	<hr/> 453	<hr/> 900
Still Births—Legitimate	...	...	8	5	12
Illegitimate	...	...	<hr/>—	<hr/>—	<hr/>—
			8	5	12

Comparability Factors:—

Births 0.86

Deaths 1.56

Live Births per 1,000 Population ... 17.46 corrected 15.12

Still births per 1,000 Live and Still Births 13.15 ,, 11.31

DEATH RATE.

The Death Rate per 1,000 of the

estimated population 8.81 ,, 13.74

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES Deaths Rate per 1,000
total (Live and
Still Births)

Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	—
	<hr/> —	<hr/> —

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

OF AGE					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	6	11	17
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
					<u>6</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>17</u>

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS

OF AGE					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	4	7	11
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
					<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS OF INFANTS UNDER
1 YEAR OF AGE.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	18.88
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births				19.29
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births				—

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS OF INFANTS UNDER
4 WEEKS OF AGE.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	12.22
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births				12.48
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births				—

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	71
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE LONGBENTON AREA, 1958.

Causes of Death						Males	Females
All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	212	192
1—Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...					1	1
2—Other forms of Tuberculosis	...					—	—
3—Syphilitic diseases	...					—	—
4—Diphtheria...	...					—	—
5—Whooping Cough	...					—	—
6—Meningococcal infections...	...					1	—
7—Acute Poliomyelitis	...					—	—
8—Measles	...					—	—
9—Other infective and parasitic diseases	...					—	—
10—Cancer of stomach	...					6	4
11—Cancer of lung and bronchus	...					19	4
12—Cancer of breast	...					—	11
13—Cancer of uterus	...					—	3
14—Cancer of all other sites	...					14	13
15—Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...					1	—
16—Diabetes	...					—	1
17—Vascular lesions of nervous system	...					26	31
18—Coronary disease, angina	...					40	22
19—Hypertension with heart disease	...					4	3
20—Other heart disease	...					36	43
21—Other circulatory disease	...					5	8
22—Influenza	...					—	2
23—Pneumonia	...					8	4
24—Bronchitis	...					17	5
25—Other diseases of respiratory system	...					—	2
26—Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...					4	—
27—Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...					1	3
28—Nephritis and nephrosis	...					5	—
29—Hyperplasia of prostate	...					2	—
30—Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...					—	—
31—Congenital malformations	...					1	2
32—Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...					11	20
33—Motor vehicle accidents	...					4	1
34—All other accidents	...					4	4
35—Suicide	...					2	5
36—Homicide and operations of war	...					—	—

There is no evidence of any excessive or unusual mortality during the year.

I have no evidence, statistical or otherwise, that conditions of occupation or environment have exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of adults. There is, however, evidence that the general health and physique of children, both of pre-school and school age, are generally improving.

TABLE SHOWING THE INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES SINCE THE FORMATION OF THE LONGBENTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL IN 1935

1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
78.3	85.22	87.3	70.27	51.9	85.7	60.6	51.8	61.1	35.95	76.54	35.95
1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
36.68	43.68	38.87	31.47	25.80	38.31	23.76	24.41	35.18	20.40	16.52	18.18

SECTION B.

1. (i) Public Health Officials : see page 2.
- (ii) (a) Laboratory facilities are now available at the General Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
- (b) The Ambulance Service is under the jurisdiction of the Northumberland County Council. As from the 1st November, 1952, the Ambulance Service for Longbenton Urban District Council is centred in Wideopen Depot which also supplies the ambulance needs of the South Area Northumberland County Council.
- (c) Nursing in the home is controlled by the Northumberland County Council.
- (d) Scaffold Hill Hospital is the only hospital in the district. This hospital is administered by the South East Hospital Management Committee (Northumberland) on behalf of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board. The primary function of this hospital is to provide accommodation for the care of aged sick men and women and one pavilion is set aside for convalescent cases. All infectious disease cases for the area are accommodated at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne and Moor Park Hospital, North Shields.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. SECTION 47.

Extensions of the Order in accordance with Section 47, Sub-section 4 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, continue relative to the case of one woman in need of care and attention. This person was removed to a suitable home in 1956 on an Order issued by a Justice of the Peace under Section 1 of the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICE.

This service is operated and controlled by the Northumberland County Council.

SECTION C.

1. WATER SUPPLY.

(i) The water supply for the area during the last year has been satisfactory. All the water for the district is supplied by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co.

(ii) *Drainage and Sewerage*—Conditions remain the same.

2. (i) *Rivers and Streams*—See Senior Public Health Inspector's Report.

(ii) *Public Cleansing*—See Senior Public Health Inspector's Report.

(iii) *Sanitary Inspection of the Area*—See Senior Public Health Inspector's Report.

(iv) *Shops and Offices*—See Senior Public Health Inspector's Report.

(v) *Camping Sites*.—See Senior Public Health Inspector's Report.

(vi) *Clean Air Act, 1956*—See Senior Public Health Inspector's Report.

(vii) *Swimming Baths and Pools*—There are no swimming baths in the area.

(viii) *Eradication of the Bed Bug*—See Senior Public Health Inspector's Report.

(ix) *Head Lice*—No special treatment was given.
Body Lice—No special treatment was given.

SCHOOLS.

All schools in the area are provided with a sufficient and suitable water supply from the mains supply together with a water carriage system of sanitary accommodation. Periodical inspections are made of all schools and particular attention paid to those schools provided with school meals facilities, including kitchens.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.—See Senior Public Health Inspector's Report.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- (a) *Milk Supply*—See Senior Public Health Inspector's Report.
- (b) *Meat and other Foods*—See Senior Public Health Inspector's Report.
- (c) *Adulteration*—This service is administered by the County Council.
- (d) *Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food*—Samples of milk and ice cream are taken for Bacteriological examination by this Authority. These samples are examined at the Public Health Laboratory.
- (e) *Nutrition*—Talks were given to young mothers at Child Welfare Clinics.
- (f) *Shellfish (Molluscan)*—There are no shellfish beds or layings in this area. Shellfish is rarely sold in this area.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table gives the numbers and age groups of
the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year :—

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, 1958.

NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED													
	Age Group										Hospital	Deaths	
	At all Ages (1957)	U'nder 1 year	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 and not k'wn over			
Scarlet Fever	45 (51)	—	1	6	5	3	28	2	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	33 (92)	5	1	2	4	14	6	1	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	36 (1007)	2	3	8	4	6	13	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	39 (113)	4	3	5	3	1	10	4	3	6	—	—	—
Pneumonia	23 (9)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	18	—	1	—
Typhoid Fever	5 (—)	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	—	5	—
Erysipelas	2 (2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	— (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	— (1P)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	183 (1276)	11	8	21	17	25	58	7	7	29	—	6	—

The following table shows the number of bacteriological specimens from the Longbenton Area examined in the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle, during 1958.

Examination Requested.	Positive	Negative.	Total
Vincent's Angina	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Haemolytic Strep.	2	1	3
Tuberculosis Sputa	5	—	5
Enteric and Dysentery Groups ...	99	390	489
Clinical Specimens	—	—	—
Staphylococcus Aureus	1	1	2
	107	392	499

POLIOMYELITIS.—No cases of Paralytic Poliomyelitis were notified.

SCARLET FEVER.—Notifications show a decrease of 6 cases all were of a very mild form.

PNEUMONIA.—Notifications show an increase, 23 cases as against 9.

MEASLES.—There is a very large decrease in the number of cases notified, 1,007 in 1957 to 36 in 1958.

WHOOPING COUGH.—There was a decrease in the number of cases notified, 33 as against 92 in 1957.

FOOD POISONING.—No cases of food poisoning were notified.

DYSENTERY.—There was a decrease in the number of cases notified during the year, 39 as against 113 in 1957.

VENEREAL DISEASE.—Full support has been given to the Northumberland County Council in their propaganda against Venereal Disease. Posters have been published and handbills distributed and full information as to the places and times of the Clinic supplied to enquirers at this Public Health Department.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.—No cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.—No action was necessary under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, with regard to persons employed in the milk trade, nor in the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS, 1958.—The following Tables are self explanatory :—

	NEW CASES NOTIFIED FORM A				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 14 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
15 to 24 years ...	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
25 to 44 years ...	4	2	—	2	2	—	—	—
45 to 64 years ...	10	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
65 years and over ...	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—
Age not known ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	18	2	—	4	7	2	—	1

CASES TRANSFERRED INTO AREA.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years ...	—	—	—	—
5 to 14 years ...	—	—	—	—
15 to 24 years ...	2	12	—	—
25 to 44 years ...	11	16	—	4
45 to 64 years ...	4	4	—	—
65 years and over ...	2	—	—	—
Age not known ...	1	4	—	—
	20	36	—	4

PARTICULARS OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER
as at 31st December, 1958.

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary and Non- Pulmonary
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	Total
Cases on Register at 1 1 58 ...	300	307	607	49	52	101	708
New Cases ...	18	2	20	—	4	4	24
Cases transferred into area ...	20	36	56	—	4	4	60
Cases Reinstated	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
Cases Removed	27	23	50	5	5	10	60
Cases on Register at 31 12 58 ...	311	323	634	44	55	99	733

LONGBENTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year ended 31st December, 1958.

To the Chairman and Members of the

LONGBENTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the Public Health and Refuse Collection Departments for the year 1958.

HOUSING.

Details, showing the number of families re-housed during 1958 and the numbers still remaining on the Housing Applications Lists, have been kindly supplied by the Housing Manager.

The following table shows the number of houses allocated to the various types of applicants :—

POINTS SCHEME.

Catagories.	A	B	C	D & O.P.	Total
	7	2	18	19	46

OTHERS.

Exchanges to abate overcrowding	...	80
Slum Clearance	... ..	—
Eviction Orders and Special Allocation		2
		<hr/> 128 <hr/>

The following table shows the fluctuation of the number of applicants for Council Houses between 1/4/49 and 1/4/59 :—

CATEGORY 'A.'

Applicants with homes of their own and residing in overcrowded conditions

282	261	255	212	236	205	116	98	86	55	32	39
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----	----	----	----	----

CATEGORY 'B.'

Applicants without homes of their own and residing in overcrowded conditions

225	240	213	103	150	138	24	15	6	4	7	8
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----	----	---	---	---	---

CATEGORY 'C.'

Applicants without homes of their own but not overcrowded

449	481	503	376	446	532	465	550	484	411	183	397
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

CATEGORY 'D.'

Normal applicants desiring improved housing accommodation but not overcrowded ...

477	575	615	582	666	740	717	761	722	765	431	557
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

1433	1557	1586	1273	1498	1615	1322	1424	1298	1233	653	1001
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	-----	------

No new houses were provided but 48 existing houses became available for re-allocation.

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME.

A Public Inquiry was held into the making of 10 Clearance Orders dealing with 98 houses. Confirmation was given to each of the orders with the exception of a house and shop with a flat above which were excluded from one area. Re-housing has not yet taken place from the areas but a commencement has been made to provide the new houses required.

REPAIR OF PRIVATELY OWNED HOUSES.

The policy of securing repairs to private houses by informal action has again been pursued, 69 Informal Notices were served, in one instance only was it necessary to serve Statutory Notice. In all cases the work specified in the notices was completed and it was not necessary to take legal proceedings or to carry out the work in default.

HOUSING ACT, 1949.

Applications were received for Improvement Grants to 5 houses, all were approved.

RENT ACT, 1957.

It would appear that there is a considerable amount of agreement between landlords and tenants relative to the carrying out of repairs as only 8 applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair. One application, by a landlord for cancellation of Certificate of Disrepair, issued under the Housing Rent & Repairs Act, 1954, was granted.

The table below shows the number of applicants for certificates of disrepair :—

Applications received for Certificates of Disrepair	8
Applications for Certificates of disrepair—refused	1
Undertakings by landlords—accepted ...	3
Certificates of disrepair—issued	4
Application for cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair	8
Certificates of Disrepair, cancelled	3
Certificates of Disrepair, not cancelled ...	5

TABLE 1.

	Number of Inspections during year.	Number of Defects or Contraventions of Bye-laws.	Number of Informal Notices served	Defects remedied by Informal Action	Number of Statutory Notices served	Defects remedied after Statutory Notices	Legal Proceedings
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Housing—							
Structural Defects
Defective Food Store
Dampness
Overcrowding
WATER SUPPLY—							
Insufficient
Unsatisfactory
DRAINAGE							
Insufficient
Unsatisfactory
SANITARY CONVENIENCES—							
Defective
Insufficient
Public Houses and Food Premises
Shops Act
Dairies and Milk Samples
Meat Inspection Slaughter Houses
Tents, Vans, and Sheds
Public Cleansing
Factories Act
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles
Keeping of Animals
Nuisances (Watercourses) Offensive Accumulations
Clean Air Act (Survey) and Smoke Nuisances
Infectious Diseases
Rent Act, 1957
Petroleum Regulation
TOTAL	5185	666	367	578	6	10	—

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection	Written Notices	Occ'piers P'cuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	6	7	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	38	49	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises)	5	5	—	—
Total	49	61	—	—

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp'ctor	By H.M. Insp'ctor	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) ...					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences (not including offences relating to Homework) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	2	—	—	—

TABLE II.
HOUSING.
TABULAR STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1958.

Houses Completed during the Year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
By Local Authority	—	—	—
By any other Housing Authority	476	—	476
By private persons	—	232	232
Total	—	—	708

Total number of Inhabited Houses in District, 13,194.

Total number of Houses owned by Local Authority 3,145.

CLOSING AND DEMOLITION OF HOUSES.

A. FORMAL ACTION.

- (1) Number of houses demolished during 1958 as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action —
(Number of houses included in above which were from pre-war confirmed Clearance Areas) ... —
- (2) Number of houses *closed* but not demolished as a result of formal action —

B. INFORMAL ACTION.

- (1) Number of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above —
- (2) Houses demolished 1

RECONDITIONING AND REPAIR.

Number of houses made fit during 1958 by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts :

- (a) As a result of Informal Action 141
- (b) By owners as a result of statutory notice ... 4
- (c) By Local Authority in default of owners ... —

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS—HOUSING ACT, 1949.

- | | Number of
separate
houses |
|--|---------------------------------|
| (a) Applications submitted to Local Authority during year | 5 |
| (b) Applications rejected by Local Authority ... | — |
| (c) Applications approved | 5 |
| (d) Total number of applications approved in area since inception of scheme | 97 |
| (e) Approximate average grant approved per house | £205 |

	By Informal Action	By Statutory Notice	Total
SANITARY CONVENIENCES—			
Privies and Privy Ashpits abolished	2	—	2
repaired	—	—	—
Pail-Closets abolished	—	—	—
Water-Closets provided	2	—	2
Number of above for which grant was given, P.H.A. 1936, S. 47	2	—	2
Sanitary Bins provided	—	—	—
Sanitary Bins renewed	182	1	183
DRAINAGE—			
New Drains constructed	—	—	—
Drains repaired or reconstructed	33	—	33
Additional Gullies provided	—	—	—
Old Gullies replaced	—	—	—
Scullery Sinks provided	—	—	—
Scullery Waste Pipes repaired	8	—	8
Scullery Waste Pipes trapped	—	—	—
Yards repaired or reconstructed	17	—	17

Informal action was taken for the replacement of 182 defective bins, 161 informal notices being served. It was, however, necessary in one instance to serve Statutory Notice under Section 75 of the Public Health Act, to secure the provision of a new bin. The Council decided that the notice had to be served on the owner of the property.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Three cases of pollution of streams were found during the year, all of which were remedied by informal action.

DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD.

Section 50 National Assistance Act, 1948.

It was not necessary for the department to take action in this respect during the year.

ERADICATION OF VERMIN.

The presence of vermin in both private and Council houses continues to decrease and during the year it was not necessary to treat any for the presence of bed bugs.

By far the most common infestation was that of the cockroach, 9 private houses and 15 Council houses were treated.

One case of fleas was reported in a private house. No cases were reported from Council houses.

Even though the number of houses found to be infested with vermin is very small, the Council continues with its policy of precaution in Council houses by spraying all furniture with a solution of D.D.T. in Kerosene prior to it being moved into a Council house or an exchange from one Council house to another. In this respect a total of 93 houses were inspected—few were found to be infested with vermin.

TENTS, VANS, AND SHEDS.

There are three caravans licensed for occupation in the district, all are situated in Killingworth Village and regularly inspected.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.

- (i) Number of Food Premises in the area, 235.
- (ii) Registered premises, 90.
- (iii) Number of inspections of registered premises, 141.

MOBILE SHOPS.

There is a considerable number of mobile shops operating throughout the district, not only on the new estates where new shops have not yet been provided, but in the whole of the district. There appears to be a trend to purchase from the mobile shop rather than to make shopping visits. Vans are inspected regularly to see that the Food Hygiene Regulations are being complied with and we have adopted the procedure of, after one verbal warning, a written warning is given, any further contraventions are to be reported to the Committee for their consideration relative to taking proceedings.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924—1952.

There are five licensed slaughterhouses in the district, at three of which regular slaughter takes place.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNATIONS.

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number Killed	1880	393	64	6996	2456	11789
Number Inspected	1880	393	64	6996	2456	11789
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	1	2	14	1	20
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	572	101	—	82	432	1187
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tubercu- losis	30.53%	18.77%	3.13%	1.37%	17.63%	10.24%
Total weight of meat and offal condemned (lbs.) ...	5460	1769	85	1185	1674	10173
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	—	—	—	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organs were condemned	54	20	—	—	89	163
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuberculosis	2.98%	5.09%	—	—	3.62%	1.4%
Total weight of meat and offal condemned (lbs.) ...	3699	1093	—	—	1181	5973
CYSTICERCOSIS						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	26	3	—	—	—	29
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	2	—	—	—	—	2
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of Bovine Car- casses inspected affected with C. Bovis.	1.37%	.76%	—	—	—	—
Total weight of meat and offal condemned. (lbs.)	559	99	—	—	—	658

TABLE IV.
FOOD INSPECTION.

Unsound Food				Sur-rendered	Seized	Legal Proceedings
1.	Beef (Home-Killed)	...	stones	1	—	—
2.	Beef (Imported)	...	"	19½	—	—
3.	Mutton (Home-Killed)	...	"	—	—	—
4.	Mutton (Imported)	...	"	—	—	—
5.	Pork (Home-Killed)	...	"	—	—	—
6.	Pork (Imported)	...	"	—	—	—
7.	Game	...	lbs.	—	—	—
8.	Poultry	...	"	—	—	—
9.	Fish	...	"	—	—	—
10.	Fruit	...	"	150	—	—
11.	Canned Goods	...	Tins	475	—	—
12.	Bacon	...	lbs.	—	—	—
13.	Cheese	...	"	—	—	—
14.	Butter and Margarine	...	"	—	—	—
15.	Lard	...	"	—	—	—
16.	Eggs (frozen and powdered)	...	"	—	—	—
17.	Flour	...	"	—	—	—
18.	Sugar	...	"	—	—	—
19.	Other Foods	...	"	—	—	—

THE MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

The following are the registrations now kept by the Council under the above regulations :—

Number of persons registered as distributors ... 103

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

Number of Dealers' Licences to use the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" in relation to milk sold from premises within the district ... 1

Number of Supplementary Licences to use the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" in relation to milk retailed within the district 6

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

Number of Dealers' Licences to use the special designation "Pasteurised" and "T.T. Pasteurised" in relation to milk sold from premises within the district ... 20

Number of Dealer's Licences to use the special designation "Pasteurised" in relation to milk sold from premises within the district —

Number of Supplementary Licences to use the special designation "Pasteurised" and "T.T. Pasteurised" in relation to milk retailed from premises outside the district.	14
Number of Dealers' Licences to use the special designation "Sterilised" in relation to milk sold from premises within the district	52
Number of Supplementary Licences to use the special designation "Sterilised" in relation to milk sold from premises outside the district	9

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

Samples of milk from each supply were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for Bacteriological Examination. The following tables show the results of the sampling for the year.

T.T. RAW MILK.

Examination	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory
Methylene Blue Test ...	14	7	21	66.6

PASTURISED AND T.T. (PASTEURISED) MILK.

Examination	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory
Methylene Blue Test ...	40	—	40	100
Phosphatase Test ...	40	—	40	100

STERILISED AND T.T. (STERILISED) MILK.

Examination	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory
Turbidity Test ...	9	—	9	100

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF ICE CREAM.

During the summer months regular samples of ice cream were taken, trying as far as possible to have samples examined from each different manufacturer retailing within the district,

though some difficulty is experienced in taking regular samples from the occasional vendor travelling through the district with a van.

There are no producers of ice cream in the district, although 68 premises are registered to sell ice cream.

The table shows the number of samples (18) taken and the Bacteriological grading of such samples.

Producers.	No. of Samples.	Results and Grades.
A	6	1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1.
B	5	1, 1, 1, 1, 1.
C	4	1, 2, 2, 2.
D	1	1.
E	1	1.
F	1	1.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Particulars of samples of food and drugs taken in the Urban District have been kindly provided by Mr. C. J. Arlidge, Chief County Weights and Measures Inspector. A total of 187 miscellaneous samples were taken. With the exception of a sample of pork sausages, all articles were found to be in accord with the Food & Drugs Act and the Preservatives in Food Regulations. The vendor of the pork sausages was cautioned for failing to declare the presence of preservative.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

The bonus scheme inaugurated on the 1st April, 1957, has now been in operation two full years and has proved to be very satisfactory. We are finding that the scheme is ensuring that every bin in the area is collected once per week, even during holiday periods (bank holidays and annual holidays). One of the great advantages of the scheme is that we are able to retain our men who are used with the work and their districts and are giving satisfaction to the householders without undue cost to the Council. In all some 5,972 loads were collected and disposed of.

STATISTICS.

I beg to append below statistics with reference to the refuse collected. The figures are based upon the estimated population for mid-year 1958—45,800 and 13,521 premises at 31/12/58

HOUSE REFUSE ONLY.

Estimated quantity removed...	...	...	19,931 tons.
Approximate average weight per house	...	...	1.47 tons.
Average quantity per house per annum.	...	...	5.30 cu. yds.
Average per 1,000 population per day (365 days)	...	...	22.0 cwts.

Total cost of collection (Refuse, Salvage and Kitchen Waste)	£
23,654	
Cost of Disposal	5,324
Total Scavenging Costs	28,978
Less Income from Salvage, Tips, Bins, etc.	5,542
Nett Scavenging Cost	23,436

UNIT COSTS.

(Income from Salvage, excluding Kitchen Waste, is credited to Disposal).

	Collection		Disposal		Total	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Gross cost per ton, labour only	16	5	2	9	19	2
Gross cost per ton, transport only	7	10	7	6	29	4
Nett cost (all expenditure)	23	7		5.7	24	1
	£		£		£	
Nett cost per 1,000 population	501		10		511	
Nett cost per 1,000 premises	1739		36		1775	
					£	s. d.
Average cost per Establishment					1	15 6
Average cost per head population						10 2.5
Cost on rates in the £						1 6
Average cost for emptying of one bin						5.7

DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

We were able to completely fill the quarry at Wideopen in the early part of the year and a commencement was made to tip at Benton Quarry. A considerable amount of water had to be pumped out and, as there was a considerable amount of rain over the period, pumping had to be carried on longer than was anticipated. Before the end of the year, however, we were able to dispose of all the water and to have a layer over the floor of the quarry. It is anticipated that this quarry will take the refuse from Gosforth and ourselves for a period of $2\frac{1}{2}/3$ years but exploration has been going on with a view to negotiations taking place whereby it is hoped we shall obtain sites in the area which will give tipping space for a considerable number of years.

The tips are sprayed with Gammexane at frequent intervals to prevent the spread of flies, cockroaches and crickets and they are examined periodically for rat infestations.

TRADE REFUSE.

Contracts have been made with shop keepers for an annual charge, payable in advance, of 13/- per bin. Traders invariably object to paying for the removal of trade refuse but, generally, this system works satisfactorily.

SALVAGE.

The table below shows the amount of salvage sold during the year. Owing to the removal of restrictions we were able to increase the amount of waste paper from 355 tons to 473 tons with an increased revenue of £1,100. At the commencement of the year we arranged for a local pig keeper to collect kitchen waste so as to reduce our wages costs, but, during the year, instead of him collecting the waste and having it weighed, the Council agreed for him to collect as much as he could and pay a rental of 10/- per week for the bins which had been installed throughout the district.

				Tons cwts.		Value.		
						£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	...	...	...	473	0	3685	0	0
KitchenWaste	...	...	...	45	0*	185	0	0
Rags	...	...	...	3	1	46	0	0
Scrap Metal	...	...	...	1	1	1	0	0
Total				522	2	£3917	0	0

*8 months (4 months at rental for bins).

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Regular inspections and treatments were made to refuse tips and sewerage disposal works. Allotments and small holdings in the district are kept under strict observation. Inspections are made by the Council's rodent operator and co-operation has been obtained with the respective owners where any infestation of rats has been found. Since the Northumberland Agricultural Executive Committee discontinued their services to agricultural holdings, we have been able to have contracts with a number of farmers and their premises are given four regular services per year, although the treatments necessary are comparatively small, the farmers seem to be quite satisfied in that we are keeping the premises free from large infestations. Sewers in the area have been test baited where necessary, although very little evidence of infestations has been found.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year :—

Type of Property		No. of Properties in District	No. of Properties Surveyed (Inc. Re-surveys)	No. of Inspections Made	No. treated by L.A.
Local Authority ...		14	40	116	22
Business ...		503	86	179	30
HOUSES	L.A. ...	3145	178	254	49
	Private ...	10049	253	521	124
Agricultural	Allotments ...	360 approx	294	303	31
	Others ...	28	—	—	—
Totals ...		14099	870	1451	268

Bodies recovered : 149 Rats and 16 Mice.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

On the 1st April, 1958, the Volumetric Atmospheric Pollution Gauge and SO₂ Recorder, sited within the offices of the Public Health Department, were brought into operation. The table below shows the maximum, minimum and average monthly readings for smoke and SO₂ recorded. Whilst it is too early to draw definite conclusions from these figures it is apparant, even at this stage, that our greatest pollution is in the drift from the industrial areas lying to the south and the minimum pollution is found when the wind is from the west after having passed over what is virtually a green belt.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION, 1958.

Month	Smoke			Sulphur Dioxide		
	Mgms. per 100 cu. meters			Parts per 100 Million		
	Monthly Average	Highest Daily Average	Lowest Daily Average	Monthly Average	Highest Daily Average	Lowest Daily Average
April	12	22	1	2.7	6.8	0.2
May	11	23	1	3.3	6.1	0.2
June	10	19	1	2.9	6.3	1.2
July	7	20	2	2.5	5.6	0.9
August	9	16	1	2.9	5.8	0.7
September	13	29	2	3.7	8.4	0.9
October	15	59	0	5.0	22.3	0.5
November	26	59	5	6.0	20.7	1.3
December	20	58	8	5.2	15.3	1.1

The record of deposits for the year ended 31st December, 1958, taken by the Scientific Department, National Coal Board, at their Headquarters, have been supplied by the courtesy of Dr. J. Gibson, Acting Divisional Chief Scientist, and the table set out below shows the total deposits since 1951 and the other data for 1958.

Year	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Tons per sq. mile	236	208	197	146	191	185	177	196
Rainfall ...	...	...	...		29.2 inches.			
Insoluble Deposit		...	...		116 tons per sq. mile.			
Soluble Deposit		...	...		80 tons per sq. mile.			
Total Solid Deposit		...	...		196 tons per sq. mile.			

The records are far from satisfactory for an almost purely residential area. It is to be noted that there are no factories in the area using steam for power, all the mines draw energy from the electric grid, the only boilers are at pit head baths and schools, and those without under feed stokers are using smokeless fuels.

It is noted that the total deposit has increased from 177 to 196, the soluble deposits have gone up from 51 to 80 but the insoluble deposits have been reduced from 126 to 116, all being tons per square mile. This may be taken as a reduction in the ash content and a greater increase in the soot content.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

The Council agreed to adopt the bye-law, under Section 24 of the Act, relative to the installation of new fireplaces in new dwellings throughout the district.

A public meeting was called in the area suggested for the Pilot Scheme and, although the night in question was the coldest experienced, there was a small attendance and a very lively meeting ensued. It was the consensus of opinion of the meeting, although not fully representative of the area concerned, that a Smoke Control Area would be approved.

Following the statement by the Minister of Housing and Local Government that Local Authorities should proceed to formulate Smoke Control Areas, the matter which had been deferred in 1957 was brought back to the Committee when instructions were given to continue the survey and to report thereon. The survey was not completed before the end of the year.

In conclusion I would like to pay tribute to Mr. R. P. Bruce, the Additional Public Health Inspector, and the Clerical Staff of the Department for their loyalty and co-operation throughout the year.

Yours faithfully,

W. N. LOCKEY,
Senior Public Health Inspector.

